



NANCY BERRY PHOTO

The Sullivan County 4-H Teen Club LifeSmarts team is headed to Minneapolis on Saturday to represent New Hampshire in the national LifeSmarts contest. Front, from left, Caroline Mailhot, Lizzy Robertson and Devin Wilkie. Back, Ben Naylor and team captain Allen Abendroth.

4-H team to compete in national LifeSmarts test

NEWPORT— For several months, members of the Sullivan County 4-H Teen Club have been practicing answering questions with buzzer boards. The questions revolve around personal finance, consumer rights, the environment, technology and health. It is all practical information that will help these high school students as they become adults.

Their practice paid off with a first-place finish in the New Hampshire competition March 12 at Southern New Hampshire University. Starting Saturday, the team will be competing at the national competition in Minneapolis.

This is the third year of competing for team captain Allen Abendroth of Sunapee. Allen is a student at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden. He and Fall Mountain sophomore, Caroline Mailhot, were members of last year's winning New Hampshire team that competed in the national contest in Orlando, Fla.. The team tied for fifth place nationally in 2007. Its goal is to place in the top 10 again this year in Minneapolis.

Allen's enthusiasm for the

LifeSmarts competition is so great that he personally recruited new players for this year's team including Ben Naylor of Newport, Devin Wilkie of Cornish, and Lizzy Robertson of Newport. Their trip expenses are underwritten by New Hampshire Jump Start Coalition which promotes financial literacy.

The LifeSmarts team is coached by Extension Educator Nancy Berry and Allison St. Aubin who works for Whitman Communications in Lebanon. For more information about LifeSmarts or to follow the team's progress in the competition, see www.lifesmarts.org